

CLAIMS

1. A coating device for coating, for example, lenticular or granular items, comprising a drum rotatably mounted about a horizontal axis for accommodation of the items during a coating process, a loading device for filling the items into the drum, a closeable opening in the drum for admission of the uncoated items into the same and for allowing discharge of the coated items from the same, and a spraying device disposed within the drum for coating said items, **characterized in that** an unloading device is provided beneath said drum for removing the coated items, and between said unloading device and said drum there is provided a reciprocatory screening element which can be moved back and forth between a first position screening off said unloading device to a second position opening said unloading device.
2. A device as defined in claim 1, **characterized in that** said screening element is curved.
3. A device as defined in claim 2, **characterized in that** said screening element is in the form of part of a cylinder barrel.
4. A device as defined in claim 3, **characterized in that** the radius of said cylinder barrel is dimensioned such that the screening element

surrounds said drum with a minimum space therebetween.

5. A device as defined in claim 3 or claim 4, characterized in that said screening element is provided, at each of the curved ends thereof, with a front abutment surface.
6. A device as defined in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said screening element is securely attached, for guiding purposes, to at least one roller-mounted guide rail.
7. A device as defined in claim 6, characterized in that said at least one guide rail is dimensioned to have a length such that said screening element can be swung through approximately 90 degrees.
8. A device as defined in claim 6 or claim 7, characterized in that two guide rails are provided.
9. A device as defined in claim 8, characterized in that said guide rails are connected to said front abutment surfaces of said screening element.
10. A device as defined in any one of claims 6 to 9, characterized in that at least one roller bearing is fixed to said unloading device to enable reciprocatory displacement of said guide rails of said screening element.

11. A device as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said at least one guide rail is of round cross-section and the rollers of a roller bearing are concave in cross-section.
12. A device as defined in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that, for the purpose of affording drive means for reciprocatory displacement, said screening element is connected to a curved toothed rack which cooperates with a motor-driven toothed wheel.
13. A device as defined in claim 12, characterized in that said curved toothed rack is attached to the outer surface of said cylinder barrel.
14. A device as defined in claim 12 or claim 13, characterized in that said toothed wheel is attached to said unloading device.
15. A device as defined in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that the spraying device for the cleaning liquid is disposed in the vicinity of the spraying device used for coating the items.
16. A device as defined in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said unloading device includes a funnel-shaped trough.
17. A device as defined in claim 16, characterized in that the discharging device beneath said funnel-

shaped trough contains a conveyor belt for the removal of the items in a controlled manner.

18. A device as defined in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that a plurality of iterative coating processes can be carried out successively using different coating materials in each case.